

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 64-68 and 75-100 without prejudice to further prosecution in a divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part or other application. Please amend claims 63 and 69-74 as follows. The amendments to claims 69-74 are not in response to the outstanding Office Action, rather these amendments are simply intended to correct some matters of form (e.g., grammatical errors)

1-62 (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) Hearing aid apparatus comprising:

a first signal path comprising: having

a microphone for receiving sound in a vicinity of a user;

a processor for processing the sound into a processed sound; and

a speaker for outputting the processed sound into a vicinity of an ear canal

of the user;

a second signal path comprising: ~~for establishing communication between at least a portion of the first signal path and a location remote from the user; and~~

means for coupling said microphone to an input of a cellular phone,  
~~wherein said microphone is used in lieu of a built-in cellular phone microphone;~~

means for coupling said speaker to an output of said cellular phone,  
~~wherein said speaker is used in lieu of a built-in cellular phone speaker, and wherein said second signal path is bi-directional;~~

a detector for detecting a predetermined condition corresponding to said second signal path, wherein said predetermined condition is selected from the group consisting of a ring condition and an absence of a detected active signal in the second signal path for a predetermined period of time; and

an automatic switch coupled to said detector, said automatic switch for automatically selecting the first signal path or the second signal path in response to an output from said detector ~~a detected occurrence of a predetermined condition of the second signal path.~~

64-68. (Canceled)

69. (Currently Amended) The hearing ~~Hearing~~ aid apparatus according to claim 63, further comprising: a manual switch for ~~to~~ manually selecting between the first signal path and the second signal path.

70. (Currently Amended) The hearing ~~Hearing~~ aid apparatus according to claim 63, further comprising: a switch to place the apparatus into a sleep state, wherein power to at least some components is shutdown.

71. (Currently Amended) The hearing ~~Hearing~~ aid apparatus according to claim 63, further comprising: a memory to store a first set of sound processing control parameters for the first signal path, and for storing a second set of sound processing control parameters, different from the first set, for the second signal path.

72. (Currently Amended) The hearing ~~Hearing~~ aid apparatus according to claim 71, wherein the first set of sound processing control parameters are selected based on a hearing impairment of a user.

73. (Currently Amended) The hearing ~~Hearing~~ aid apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the second set of sound processing control parameters are selected based on the quality of a transmitted signal.

74. (Currently Amended) The hearing ~~Hearing~~ aid apparatus according to claim 71, wherein the second set of sound processing control parameters are selected based on the quality of a transmitted signal.

75-100. (Canceled)